United Nations CEDAW/C/SR.1502

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
12 July 2017

English only

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Sixty-seventh session

Summary record of the 1502nd meeting*
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 4 July 2017, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Leinarte

Contents

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (*continued*)

Seventh periodic report of Italy

* No summary record was issued for the 1501st meeting.

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of the present record to the Documents Management Section (DAS.DCM@un.org).

Any corrected records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be reissued for technical reasons after the end of the session.

GE.17-11184 (E) 070717 120717

1711184

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (*continued*)

Seventh periodic report of Italy (CEDAW/C/ITA/7; CEDAW/C/ITA/Q/7; and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Italy took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Mr. Petri** (Italy), introducing his country's seventh periodic report, said that the Government of Italy was working to improve the situation of women's human rights through the adoption of an increasingly integrated set of policies and measures. It was fully aware of the need to involve civil society in all efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and recognized that it needed to do more in that area. In the absence of an independent national human rights institution, the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights had assumed responsibility for maintaining a dialogue with civil society. To that end, the position of civil society liaison officer had been created within the Interministerial Committee in January 2017. The Interministerial Committee had made a special effort to involve civil society in the drafting of the third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for the period 2016-2019, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Moreover, the Department for Equal Opportunities had set up a national observatory on violence in cooperation with civil society. The Government had carefully considered the civil society submissions posted on the Committee's website and had studied the Committee's previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ITA/CO/6), which had been translated into Italian and disseminated among all relevant actors. Italy had demonstrated its commitment to the promotion of human rights by the submission of its candidacy for the elections to the Human Rights Council.

3. Recent legislative developments included the entry into force of a law on flexible working arrangements and a law to combat cyberbullying. The Interministerial Committee for Human Rights had been working with the relevant parliamentary committees and civil society to help push through a bill to establish an independent national human rights institution. The amended draft legislation in question was currently awaiting approval.

4. The Equal Opportunity Code had recently been amended. Articles 12 to 20 of the Code were devoted to the role and responsibilities of equality councillors, who were responsible for handling complaints of gender-based discrimination lodged by female workers. The Superior School of the Judiciary provided human rights refresher courses covering the principle of non-discrimination and the phenomenon of gender-based violence. In order to support women who were victims of violent crimes and to ensure coordinated action in that connection, memorandums of understanding had been signed by key local stakeholders and the judicial authorities. Since 2000, the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) had been rolling out a national information system on disability for the purpose of collecting relevant data.

5. The Extraordinary National Action Plan on Violence against Women had been adopted in July 2015. In November 2016, the Department for Equal Opportunities had signed memorandums of understanding with the Carabinieri (gendarmerie) and the State police on the provision of training on gender-based violence. Similar training had already been provided to 30 accident and emergency doctors, and there were plans to offer such training throughout the country. The arrangements for setting up a national database on gender-based violence had been finalized in November 2016 and would be put into place in cooperation with the ISTAT. According to a survey conducted by the Institute in 2015, foreign women were victims of sexual or physical violence on a scale similar to Italian women. However, there had been a reduction in the number of cases of sexual and physical violence recorded in 2006 owing to women's increased awareness of protection mechanisms. The new National Action Plan against Gender-based Violence, which would likely be adopted in summer 2017, would be fully in line with national and international standards, such as the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

6. The purpose of the first National Action Plan against Trafficking in and Serious Exploitation of Human Beings, adopted by the Council of Ministers in February 2016, was to develop long-term strategies to prevent and combat those phenomena. Act No. 47/2017 on foreign unaccompanied minors, which had been passed in April 2017, was aimed at guaranteeing unaccompanied minors who had been trafficked specific protection.

7. Efforts were being made to increase women's participation in all decision-making and political processes and their representation in positions of leadership. The adoption of Act No. 65/2014 had led to an increase in the number of Italian women sitting in the European Parliament. At home, 30.1 per cent of parliamentarians were women, which was above the European Union average. Act No. 120/2011 required publicly listed and State-owned companies to take steps to increase the representation of women on their boards. Following the entry into force of the Act, the percentage of women in publicly listed companies had risen to 27.6 per cent. In 2015, 12 out of 129 ambassadors were women and 11 women were serving as a Consul or Consul-General.

8. The Government remained committed to facilitating the social integration of Roma women, who were particularly disadvantaged in Italy. The National Office against Racial Discrimination had recently established a national platform for Roma integration in cooperation with representatives of the Roma and Sinti communities. Italy also remained at the forefront of a massive effort to save lives at sea in the wake of the dramatic events unfolding in the Mediterranean. A system of protection for asylum seekers and refugees was in operation across the country and was intended to provide asylum seekers, including female asylum seekers, with the requisite care.

9. A law recognizing civil unions of same-sex partners and its implementing decrees had been adopted in 2016 and 2017, respectively, constituting an important step forward in the fight against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and for the protection of the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community. Under the law, foreign nationals from countries where sexual orientation was a ground for discrimination and homosexuality was criminalized needed only to provide certification of each partner's single status to enter into a civil union.

10. Recent developments in the education and science sector included the adoption of Legislative Decree No. 66/2017 on the promotion of the inclusion of students with disabilities in schools. In June 2017, the Ministry of Education had called for the establishment of a national observatory to monitor educational initiatives to promote gender equality and to combat gender-based violence. The Department for Equal Opportunities had undertaken several campaigns to raise awareness of the need to eradicate gender stereotypes, including through the media. Data were also collected on gender stereotypes and on attitudes towards gender-based violence. To increase public awareness of women's health, the Government had declared 22 April Women's Health Day.

11. A decree on gender budgeting had been adopted in June 2017. Since 2010, the Department for Equal Opportunities had been promoting the implementation of the 2010 Agreement on Reconciliation between Work and Private Life. Compulsory paternity leave had also been introduced pursuant to European Council Directive No. 2010/18/EU on parental leave. Furthermore, according to the latest Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development report on entrepreneurship, Italy had the second highest number of female entrepreneurs and self-employed women. The principles of non-discrimination and gender equality enshrined in the Constitution afforded women, including women with disabilities, protection against any form of discrimination with respect to employment, access to public or elected office and maternity.

12. In 2016, the budget of the national health-care system had been €111 billion. Since the entry into force of Act No. 194/1978 on abortion, the Ministry of Health submitted a report to the parliament each year. Data on conscientious objection to abortion had always been collected at the regional level and, since 2013, was collected by a single entity. The number of medical practitioners performing abortions had remained stable and the number of abortions had halved between 1983 and 2014. There were 22 million women living in rural areas in 2015. Numerous regional and local initiatives had been undertaken to increase women's participation in and access to farming. In order to address irregularities in the

agricultural sector, which affected mainly women and migrants, the parliament had passed Act No. 199/2016 to fight against undeclared work and exploitation. Efforts to implement the Act were under way. The first national plan on business and human rights had been launched in December 2016. In recent years, the Government had been promoting policies to support and develop early childhood educational services. The 2017 budget law provided for the introduction of additional measures to support future parents and parents with young children.

Articles 1 to 6

13. **Ms. Schulz**, noting that the austerity measures imposed by the State party seemed to have had a disproportionate impact on women, asked whether it planned to revise those measures and to reinstate funding for the welfare, social, health and educational services used mostly by women for themselves or on the behalf of persons under their care, particularly children and older persons.

14. She said that the State party was to be commended on its generosity and on the courageous role that it had played in rescuing tens of thousands of persons at sea, providing them with housing, food, schooling and care. She also welcomed the State party's comprehensive framework for the protection of women's rights and decision to include gender-based persecution as a ground for recognizing refugee status. However, the Committee was concerned that the living conditions in migrant reception centres were sometimes inadequate and that rescue boats operated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could soon be banned from entering Italian ports. She asked how the State party intended to ensure that migrant reception centres had adequate capacity to house asylum-seeking and refugee women and enough trained female staff to attend to them. She would also like to hear more about the logistical arrangements in place to minimize the risk of those women suffering further gender-based violence in migrant reception centres. It would also be useful to know whether the State party provided the NGOs dealing with the influx of asylum seekers and other migrants with the funding necessary for them to operate effectively and whether it had standardized procedures across national migration services, NGOs and migrant reception centres. She would be interested to know whether the State party considered the possible ban on NGO rescue boats entering Italian ports to be compatible with its international human rights obligations.

15. Although the State party had adopted many laws and regulations intended to combat gender-based discrimination and to promote gender equality, there appeared to be serious shortcomings in their implementation. There was a clear discrepancy between the legislative and practical measures taken to combat gender-based discrimination and those taken to combat racial discrimination. Furthermore, the legal protection available against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity was far from comprehensive, as it was provided for in some laws but not in others. She wished to know whether the State party planned to modify article 3 of the Constitution and Act No. 205/1993 to expand the protection that it offered to cover all grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity. She would welcome further details of the State party's ongoing efforts to raise awareness about women's rights.

16. While she welcomed the guaranteed availability of free legal aid for female victims of violence, regardless of their income, she wondered whether that sufficient legal aid was provided to women who had suffered discrimination in the workplace or who were going through a difficult divorce. She asked what measures the State party had taken to protect the rights of women who were victims of multiple discrimination, such as migrant, Roma, Sinti, Traveller and asylum-seeking women. She wished to know whether members of the judiciary, law enforcement personnel and the staff of social, medical and educational services underwent compulsory training and whether the State party planned to take steps to expedite and improve the handling of cases involving gender-based violence.

17. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) said that the Government attached great importance to gender budgeting as part of its broader gender mainstreaming strategy. Following the adoption of the decree on gender budgeting on 16 June 2017, all central State entities were required to take account of the gender dimension in administering their respective budgets. Central State entities were also required to categorize their budget items as either "neutral",

"sensitive" or "other" and revise their expenditure in an effort to reduce gender inequality. Guidelines would be issued to all central State entities to assist them with that task. ISTAT would work with the central Government over the coming year to develop indicators to measure compliance with the decree. The Presidency of the Council of Ministers was responsible for coordinating activities in that connection. Compliance with and efforts to enforce the decree would be assessed and a report published by the end of September 2017.

18. **Ms. Battilomo** (Italy) said that, since 2013, health personnel dealing with migrants received training on the cultures and health-care systems in different countries and the procedures and guidelines to be followed. Guidelines had been published on the treatment of vulnerable groups of migrants, such as women, children and victims of torture. A fund, partially financed by the European Union, had been set up to provide medical assistance at sea. Mediators had also been assigned to deal with gender-sensitive issues.

19. A significant share of the national budget was devoted to health, and health expenditure was expected to rise in the coming years. Gender budgeting had been used to assess funding for hospitals and measures to prevent violence against women. Health-care services had been modernized, with a particular focus on women's, children's and maternal health care.

20. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) said that distinguishing between migrants and trafficked persons had proved challenging. National mechanisms had thus been established to detect and provide targeted assistance for women victims of trafficking and operated in cooperation with the relevant international mechanisms. Reception centres for victims of trafficking were also being established. In addition, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Department for Equal Opportunities was working to provide shelter for women victims of violence and training for persons working with such victims.

21. **Mr. Petri** (Italy) said that the Government had participated actively in the development of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

22. **Ms. D'Ancona** (Italy) said that article 3, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, which was interpreted broadly and enforced by the courts, set forth the Government's duty to guarantee equal treatment for all citizens, without discrimination of any kind. Various laws had been declared unconstitutional on the basis of that article. Provision had been made for accelerated proceedings in urgent cases concerning discrimination. The School of the Superior Council of the Judiciary provided mandatory training to trainee magistrates on anti-discrimination laws and the forthcoming training session would cover the Convention. Lifelong learning programmes were available to all magistrates. Specialized training was also provided relating to crimes against vulnerable groups, such as violence against women, and to family law, which included cases involving custody of children.

23. **Ms. Schulz** said she wished to know how the Government practised gender budgeting at the regional level. With regard to the extraterritorial application of the Convention, she asked what the timeline was for the adoption of legislation and policies concerning Italy's arms trade, particularly mechanisms to analyse the impact of the Government's arms trade on women's rights. Were there plans to include civil society in the preparation of such legislation and would Government decisions on licences for arms exports be reviewed taking into account the gender perspective?

24. **Ms. Ameline** said that she wondered how the Government intended to strengthen relations with non-governmental organizations dealing with the phenomenon of migration. She would like details of the legal mechanisms that were being established to distinguish female migrants and refugees from victims of trafficking. She asked whether a comprehensive policy approach that integrated the concept of development had been taken to deal with migration flows and trafficking. She asked, in the light of the new indicators concerning gender budgeting mentioned in the opening statement, what specific mechanism would be set up to ensure that all of civil society was involved in efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

25. **Mr. Petri** (Italy) said that the public authorities maintained active relations with civil society, including with respect to the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. Another notable example was an initiative involving some 140 civil society

organizations that had promoted activities throughout the country for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the country had opted to carry out a voluntary national review of its experiences in implementing the 2030 Agenda at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

26. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) said that gender budgeting was coordinated exclusively at the State level and that, although State budget policies could not be enforced at the regional level, certain regions had chosen to adopt the gender budgeting policies. While equal opportunity policies were developed largely at the State level, monitoring was carried out by the regional authorities in accordance with the relevant regulations. While there was no central monitoring mechanism for shelters as such, some monitoring was conducted at the national level based on reports from various sources.

27. **Ms. Battilomo** (Italy) said that, with a view to eliminating inequalities, the Ministry of Health conducted mandatory regional reviews based on the relevant national indicators. Where shortcomings and inequalities were identified, the regional authorities in question were subject to certain penalties. In addition, within the framework of the national health plan, an audit was conducted in all regions to ensure equal and adequate funding.

28. **Mr. Petri** (Italy) said that the granting of armaments export licences was subject to strict controls in Italy. He drew attention to the law on export controls, No. 185/90, which aligned national regulations with the international obligations undertaken by Italy in that area. National control of arms exports was carried out in close cooperation with other members of the European Union in accordance with European Union policy.

29. **Ms. Schulz** asked whether there were plans to expand the list in article 3 of the Constitution which set out grounds on which discrimination was prohibited. She would like to know how the Government ensured that public funds earmarked for a specific purpose such as social support in the regions reached their targets.

30. **Ms. Battilomo** (Italy) said that article 3, paragraph 1, of the Constitution enshrined the principle of equality of all citizens before the law. The civil partnership law, for example, had been developed on the basis of that provision. A monitoring system was in place regarding the allocation of State funding at regional level and it was incumbent on the State to control regional funding where improper use of such funds was detected.

31. **Ms. Rana** said that there were shortcomings in the structures of various key departments for gender equality, the approach to eliminating gender discrimination and the implementation of the equal opportunities policy. She would appreciate further information on coordination between those departments and their different roles. Gender mainstreaming was not adequately taken into consideration in the formulation and implementation of laws and regulations at all levels. She was concerned that the mandate of the Department of Family Policies was undefined, that no measure for single parent families had been elaborated and that the Department's policies hindered full compliance with the Convention by prioritizing the protection of the family over the eradication of discrimination against women.

32. She therefore asked what measures the Government envisaged to ensure that the Department's objectives and activities complied with the Convention, that family policies did not reinforce stereotypes and that there was coordination and communication between the Department for Equal Opportunities and the Department of Family Policies and other mechanisms for gender equality. She would like information on the establishment of legislation and monitoring tools to promote gender analyses and approaches, gender impact assessments of laws and policies, and the collection of sex-disaggregated data. She asked what timeline was envisaged for the establishment of a national human rights institution. Would the delegation define the "relevant civil society organizations" involved in the preparation of the report referred to in paragraph 2 given that civil society representatives maintained that there was no formal collaboration between State authorities and non-governmental organizations?

33. **Mr. Petri** (Italy) said that the Government recognized that much work needed to be done to improve the participation of civil society in decision-making processes at the State level, including its involvement with the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights. An

open working group had been set up, however, for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which included the participation of civil society.

34. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) said that continuous participation and dialogue with civil society representatives, such as organizations combating trafficking, had been institutionalized in the Department for Equal Opportunities and the Department for Family Policies. National observatories were in place and steering groups had been established to deal with trafficking in persons, women entrepreneurs and other issues affecting women.

35. **Mr. Ferrante** (Italy) said that the Department for Family Policies worked in close cooperation with other government ministries and with regional and local authorities. Moreover, an observatory on family affairs had been set up and comprised representatives of local and central administrations and civil society, which demonstrated that a collaborative approach was being taken. In that connection, the Department was in the process of organizing a conference, to be attended by representatives of the public authorities, civil society and service providers, with the aim of discussing forthcoming social policies and evaluating the work of the observatory. A national programme to promote inclusion was also being prepared and €15 million in funding was being allocated to strengthen the work of the country's regional family centres.

36. **Ms. Rana**, noting that arms exports were not covered in the State party's national action plan to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, said that she wondered whether any other measures were envisaged to ensure that such exports were in keeping with the resolution. She also wished to know how the State party intended to ensure that vulnerable groups such as migrants, asylum seekers and Roma, Sinti and Traveller women participated in defining indicators to measure the impact of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local level.

37. **Ms. Manalo** said that she wished to know what action the Italian Government was taking to control transnational crime, in particular arms smuggling, a practice that often had violent repercussions for women and children.

38. As things stood, provisions on women's rights were enshrined in various disparate pieces of legislation. She wondered whether there were any specific obstacles that could explain why the State party had yet to adopt a unified and comprehensive domestic law incorporating the Convention and, if not, whether such a law was envisaged.

39. **Mr. Petri** (Italy) said that the country's national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) had been drafted in compliance with Security Council resolution 2242 (2015) on women and peace and security.

40. **Ms. Muratore** (Italy) said that, as part of the country's commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the National Institute of Statistics was due to publish in July 2017 updated data and several newly defined indicators. ISTAT had worked closely with civil society in defining those indicators, and a committee had also been established to monitor other indicators at the national level.

41. **Ms. D'Ancona** (Italy) said that, upon ratification of the Convention, all of its provisions had automatically been incorporated into the domestic legal framework. Although there was no specific law on the Convention as such, its provisions were fully reflected in different pieces of legislation, as appropriate, in accordance with the Constitutional principle of equality.

42. **Mr. Petri** (Italy) said that, following the recent dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2016, the country's common core document (HRI/CORE/ITA/2016) was currently being updated to include an explanation of how international conventions ratified by Italy were incorporated into domestic law.

43. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) pointed out that the Equal Opportunities Code had been drafted to include all the provisions related to women's rights and equal opportunities and to reflect the structure and principles of the Convention. For example, article 1 of the Code covered

eliminating discrimination against women. Thus, a comprehensive anti-discrimination and equal opportunities law was in place and was subject to continuous review and revision.

44. **Ms. Nadaraia** said that, while noting the State party's use of temporary special measures to promote women's political representation at European, regional and local levels, she wished to know whether any temporary special measures were in place in other areas in which women were particularly underrepresented or disadvantaged. In a similar vein, she wished to know whether the Government had any plans to introduce policies aimed at transforming unequal gender relations and to apply temporary special measures in fields where women faced significant discrimination. She asked whether the State party envisaged extending the use of temporary special measures to cover disadvantaged groups of women, such as women with disabilities, older women and women from ethnic minorities, and whether there were plans to make use of temporary special measures to facilitate the social and economic integration of the large numbers of women migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who had entered the country in recent years.

45. **Mr. Di Nardo** (Italy) said that various measures had been taken to increase women's participation in decision-making and political processes. By way of example, legislation had been introduced to ensure that no more than two thirds of candidates on party lists for municipal elections were of the same gender. Moreover, the practice of double preference voting, whereby voters were able to select two candidates provided that they chose candidates of two different genders, had also been introduced at the municipal level. Lastly, the Department for Equal Opportunities had a monitoring system in place to scrutinize the impact of temporary special measures in increasing women's representation on company boards.

46. **Ms. Marini** (Italy) said that measures had also been taken to support start-ups and help integrate persons at risk of discrimination, in particular lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons, into the labour market.

47. **Ms. Schulz** asked whether the State party intended to reintroduce the temporary special measures used to increase women's participation in the 2014 European Parliament elections for the next elections in 2019 and whether any permanent legal measures, such as gender quotas, had been taken or were being considered.

48. **Ms. Muratore** (Italy) said that information on whether temporary special measures would again be utilized during the 2019 elections to the European Parliament could be provided in writing at a later date. It was clear, however, that those measures had indeed had a positive effect: the number of women representatives at the European Parliament had increased from around 20 per cent to 40 per cent between 2009 and 2016. The number of women serving in regional administrations and on boards of directors was also steadily rising.

49. **Ms. Acar** said she was concerned that, in the absence of a more holistic and coordinated approach to implementing the Convention, the State party was addressing only the symptoms and not the root causes of issues such as stereotypes, violence against women and structural discrimination. With that in mind, she wished to know whether the Government planned to adopt specific legislation to combat gender stereotypes and sexist material in the media and advertising industries. She noted the delegation's comments regarding the constitutional principle of equality clause; however, in the Committee's experience separate legislation on gender discrimination was usually necessary.

50. She wished to know what action was being taken to ensure that the awareness-raising activities and resources allocated to the country's National Fertility Plan, which placed the issue of fertility at the centre of health and education programmes, did not perpetuate outmoded stereotypes of women by emphasizing motherhood over other aspects of women's lives.

51. She wished to know: what measures had been taken to increase the awareness of gender issues among health, education and media professionals and the judiciary and to ensure that gender perspectives were taken into account in the course of their work; whether specific training on the Convention had been provided to those professionals; and, if so, what proportion of those personnel had so far received such training. Regarding the

501 shelters referred to in the State party's replies to the list of issues (CEDAW/C/ITA/Q/7/Add.1, para. 32), she wondered whether those centres were exclusively for women victims of gender-based violence, were accessible in all areas of the country and were in conformity with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and other relevant international treaties. Moreover, she would be interested to know whether, in addition to support and psychological services, those centres provided training to empower women victims. Lastly, she would welcome specific information and data on the number of migrants or asylum seekers who had been granted leave to stay in Italy on the basis of gender-based violence or persecution in their countries of origin.

52. **Ms. Halperin-Kaddari** said that, regarding the legal framework dealing with gender-based violence in the family, it was critical that women victims should have the option to obtain restraining orders through either the criminal or civil courts. While in theory both paths were open to women in Italy, in practice, the system seemed to favour criminal proceedings, which were not always appropriate for women victims of violence. With that in mind, she wished to know whether free legal aid and representation of a high standard was available to women seeking restraining orders through the civil courts and what tools and information were available to advise women victims of domestic violence of the full range of options that were available to them.

53. She was concerned about reports that the paternalistic attitudes of judges encouraged the use of conciliation measures, even in cases of domestic violence, and wondered what action was being taken in that regard. Lastly, she wondered whether there were any plans to legislate to prevent the use of alternative dispute resolution or restorative justice mechanisms from being used in cases of gender-based or domestic violence.

54. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) said that, while there was generally a fair geographical distribution of the country's 501 shelters for victims of violence, more needed to be done to ensure adequate coverage in southern areas. The shelters, which were funded by the State, were specialist centres that provided, among other services, psychological support for victims of violence and were in compliance with the Istanbul Convention. In that connection, efforts were under way to map all State-funded services and initiatives to combat violence against women with the aim of improving the services offered by those shelters.

55. The Department for Equal Opportunities was working closely with the Ministry of Education in order to educate children of school age about gender stereotyping and thus bring about a change in attitudes. Moreover, a new initiative, due to be launched in January 2018 in cooperation with civil society organizations and advertising agencies, aimed to raise awareness among students about gender stereotypes and sexist advertising.

56. **Ms. Cavallaro** (Italy) said that the National Communications Authority was an independent body responsible for monitoring and regulating the communications sector. Its tasks included ensuring that the fundamental rights of the individual were upheld in that sector and that citizens were protected against all forms of discrimination. Article 3 of its rules and regulations concerned the protection of human dignity, while article 2 prohibited broadcasting services from transmitting material that incited hatred on the basis of race, gender, religion or nationality.

57. When necessary, the Authority took action against advertisements and entertainment programmes in order to ensure respect for human dignity and the principle of non-discrimination in accordance with the Convention. National and private broadcasters who breached the regulations were given warnings and, if necessary, required to pay fines. The national public broadcasting company had to respect the rules and regulations set out in the contract established between it and the Italian State. The contract in question stipulated that the national public broadcasting company should depict women fairly and refrain from discriminating on the basis of gender or promoting gender-based stereotypes. Complaints procedures had been established for reporting breaches of the contract.

58. The National Communications Authority had fined the national public broadcasting company for the way in which women from eastern Europe had been depicted in the television talk show programme *Parliamone sabato*. The outcome of the case, which was

ongoing, would be published on the Authority's website. At a local level, centres had been set up to monitor advertising.

59. **Ms. Battilomo** (Italy) said that the National Fertility Plan had been launched by the Ministry of Health in 2015 with the aim of raising awareness of health and educational issues surrounding fertility and the choices available to women who wished to have children. The Plan was aimed at both men and women and served to ensure that they could make choices based on sound information.

60. **Ms. Baldi** (Italy) said that the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research had launched a State-funded teacher-training programme that addressed the recognition of diversity as a source of cultural richness, the fight against discrimination, the prevention of cyberbullying, the prevention of violence in schools and gender equality.

61. **Ms. Acar** said that she wished to know whether the State party provided shelters that admitted only women victims of violence and their children. It was still not clear what proportion of professionals working in the judiciary and in health and education had received specific training on the Convention.

62. **Ms. D'Ancona** (Italy) said that eight or nine training courses in human rights and anti-discrimination laws were organized for magistrates every year. Ninety magistrates participated in each course, which meant that some 800 magistrates, or around 10 per cent of the total number of magistrates received such training every year. At the National School for Magistrates, training courses in the psychology of judging were organized to address any prejudice or bias that judges might hold. Judicial errors made in decisions relating to divorce and the fostering of children could be corrected through appeal procedures. Under the legal system, it was possible for judges to be recused if they had not acted in an impartial manner. The use of mediation in family disputes was specifically intended for women. In cases where mediation could not be used, legal aid was guaranteed for all.

63. **Ms. Halperin-Kaddari** said that she wished to know whether there were any safeguards that prohibited the use of mediation, restorative justice and alternative dispute resolution in cases involving domestic violence. It was still not clear whether free legal aid was available to women seeking restraining orders in civil courts. Noting the growing media focus on men's organizations that accused women of bringing false complaints and false charges of domestic violence, she asked whether the Government was aware of that phenomenon and whether any tools existed to combat the stereotyping of women in that manner.

64. **Ms. Hofmeister** said that she wished to know whether the Ministry of Justice collected information on femicide and, if so, whether the State party would provide the Committee with data on the reporting of cases of femicide, the number of cases that were dismissed, the length of trials, the judgments handed down and any regional differences that might exist in respect of such cases. She asked what protective measures were available for victims and the relatives of murdered women, whether a specific budget was allocated to femicide, what legal steps victims or their relatives needed to take in order to obtain compensation and what role was played by the media, including the national public broadcasting company.

65. **Ms. Schulz**, noting that women who had children faced a number of practical challenges that made it difficult for them to remain in full-time employment, said that she wished to know how the State party reconciled the existence of such difficulties with its fertility campaign, which encouraged women to have more children.

66. **Ms. Manalo** said that she wished to know what measures were taken to ensure that the human rights of women were not adversely affected by the State party's efforts to promote and strengthen the family.

67. **Ms. D'Ancona** (Italy) said that the delegation would provide the Committee with a statistical analysis of femicide that had recently been carried out. The statistics indicated that convictions were handed down to perpetrators in almost 87 per cent of cases involving femicide. Legal aid was made available in all types of proceedings, including in civil cases in which women sought restraining orders. A round table established by the Ministry of Justice, in conjunction with the National Forensic Council, aimed to improve legislation on

the provision of State legal aid and to facilitate access to justice. In cases of family disputes, measures such as mediation and alternative dispute resolution were permitted but not mandatory and the availability of such measures did not prevent the parties concerned from seeking justice through the courts.

68. **Ms. Muratore** (Italy) said that data on individuals murdered by persons with whom they had been in a relationship were collected by the Ministry of the Interior and entered in a national database and the gender database of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The data were disaggregated according to the gender of the victim and the nature of the relationship that the victim had had with the perpetrator. Such data were important in that they shed light on differences between the number of men and the number of women who were murdered. In accordance with an agreement drawn up between the Department for Equal Opportunities and ISTAT, the data in question, and analyses of them, were published on a website as part of efforts to combat violence against women. The website also featured data on other forms of violence, including physical, sexual and psychological violence, and the results of surveys on violence against women and attitudes towards such violence.

69. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) said that different kinds of shelters existed, including shelters with specialized staff that admitted only women victims of violence. In some cases, it was possible for victims to stay in shelters on a long-term basis.

70. **Mr. Ferrante** (Italy) said that measures taken to protect the family always took the needs of both men and women into account. Parents were encouraged to share childcare and domestic tasks equally and to have an equal amount of leisure time. The so-called Jobs Act of 2014 addressed the impact of childbirth and motherhood on women's employment. Under the Act, the mothers of children of up to 12 years of age were entitled to take voluntary leave and fathers were granted four mandatory days of paid paternity leave, with the possibility of taking an additional day. The purpose of the National Fertility Plan and Fertility Day was to raise awareness of health issues affecting fertility, including the existence of certain diseases and the consumption of alcohol, in order to help persons who wished to have children.

71. **Ms. Jahan** said that the problem of trafficking in persons had become multifaceted and more complex as a result of the growing numbers of migrants and refugees entering the country. The Committee acknowledged that the State party had made significant efforts to cope with unprecedented levels of migration that placed a burden on government agencies, especially those responsible for dealing with the problem of trafficking in persons.

72. Although the State party had taken a significant number of administrative and legislative measures to combat trafficking in persons, problems still persisted in relation to the identification of victims, especially those in a situation of vulnerability, the investigation and prosecution of cases and the provision of support to victims.

73. She asked how the State party would be able to implement the National Action Plan against Trafficking in and Serious Exploitation of Human Beings when, according to the replies to the list of issues, specific, dedicated funds to facilitate the implementation of the Plan had not been made available (CEDAW/C/ITA/Q/7/Add.1, para. 57). She asked whether a gender perspective was introduced, as a matter of course, into all government actions to tackle trafficking in persons and whether the National Action Plan addressed the growing level of trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation. Noting that concerns had been expressed about the lack of proper, early identification of victims of trafficking and the disappearance of women and unaccompanied minors from reception centres, and the manner in which victims of trafficking were forcibly returned to their countries of origin, she asked what measures the State party had taken to formalize the swift identification of victims of trafficking and to establish the national referral mechanism referred to in the National Action Plan. She asked whether training had been provided to immigration police officers and staff working in reception centres and holding centres for repatriation, formally known as centres for identification and expulsion, to better identify migrants and asylum seekers who had been trafficked and whether there were specific identification and screening procedures which took into account the special circumstances and needs of women and child victims of trafficking.

74. According to alternative sources, the national legislation and regulations to combat trafficking were not adequately and effectively applied at the regional and local levels and, despite the efforts made by the Department for Equal Opportunities, coordination between different government bodies was lacking. In view of that situation, she asked whether the State party envisaged appointing a national anti-trafficking coordinator or a dedicated national coordination structure that would involve all relevant public bodies, including non-governmental organizations.

75. Noting that the shortage of shelters exposed women to the risk of retrafficking, she asked what steps were being taken to increase the number of dedicated shelters for women, irrespective of their legal status. She wished to know what provisions there were to protect the significant number of victims of trafficking who were undocumented, what measures would be taken to improve the availability of consistent and reliable statistics that would enable the Committee to gauge the extent of trafficking in persons and prostitution, what programmes and strategies were being developed at the regional and municipal levels to prevent women from entering prostitution, what steps were being taken to support and rehabilitate women who wished to leave prostitution and what steps had been taken to reduce the demand for prostitution. She asked what measures had been taken to implement the recommendation made by the Special rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children to the effect that the State party should amend its Criminal Code to prevent victims of trafficking from being prosecuted for offences they had been forced to commit. Noting that the increase in prostitution was linked to irregular migration and trafficking in persons, particularly from central Africa, the Balkans and China, she asked what steps the police force was taking to combat online activities intended to facilitate that crime.

76. **Mr. Petri** (Italy) said that no national funds had been allocated to the National Action Plan against Trafficking because every administration used its own funds to enforce the Plan. The Interministerial Committee for Human Rights coordinated the Plan and played an active role in its implementation. The Italian system for the protection of victims was especially aimed at women victims but also afforded protection to men. Legislation and a referral system existed to combat labour exploitation.

77. A method for identifying victims of trafficking had been established in conjunction with the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The International Organization for Migration would collaborate with the Ministry of the Interior in order to improve methods for identifying victims, and a national helpline had been established for that purpose. A specific programme had been established to assist victims of trafficking who were minors. Although there was no anti-trafficking coordinator as such, the Department for Equal Opportunities acted as a focal point for the efforts of the various working groups involved in implementing the National Action Plan against Trafficking and was working with ISTAT on a national database on all the projects to combat trafficking in persons that had been funded to date.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.